

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (canceled)

16. (new) A battery comprising:

a housing containing a plurality of positive plates connected in parallel and a plurality of negative plates connected in parallel, each of said positive plates being of substantially the same size and rectangular shape and having two long edges and a first short edge and a second short edge;

a member in said housing, said member having a first end and a second end, said first end being electrically connected to each said first short edge of said positive plates adjacent to a first one of said two long edges and said second end being electrically connected to one of (a) each said second short edge of said positive plates adjacent to said first one of said two long edges and (b) each said first one of said two long edges of said positive plates immediately adjacent to said second short edge,

said member extending parallel to said two long edges for most of a length of said member and comprising a material that has a greater conductivity than a material of said positive plates.

17. (new) The battery of claim 16, wherein each of said negative plates has substantially the same size and rectangular shape and has two long edges and a first short edge and a second short edge, and further comprising a further member in said housing,

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said further member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said further member being electrically connected to each said first short edge of said negative plates, said second end of said further member being electrically connected to one of (a) each said second short edge of said negative plates and (b) each second one of said two long edges of said negative plates immediately adjacent to said second short edge,

said further member comprising a material which has a greater conductivity than a material of said negative plates.

18. (new) The battery of claim 16, wherein said negative plates and said positive plates are all substantially the same size and rectangular shape.

19. (new) The battery of claim 16, wherein each said first short edge of said positive plates is connected to a connector that is electrically connected to a positive terminal of the battery.

20. (new) The battery of claim 16, wherein each said second short edge of said positive plates is connected to a further connector that is connected to said member.

21. (new) The battery of claim 20, wherein said further connector is of the same material as said positive plates.

22. (new) The battery of claim 20, wherein said further connector is of the same material as said member.

23. (new) The battery of claim 16, wherein the battery is a lead acid battery.

24. (new) The battery of claim 23, wherein said member comprises copper covered in a lead sheath.

25. (new) The battery of claim 24, wherein each said first short edge of said positive plates is connected to a connector that is electrically connected to a positive terminal of the battery, and wherein said connector comprises copper covered in lead.

26. (new) The battery of claim 25, wherein said positive terminal comprises copper covered in lead.

27. (new) The battery of claim 24, wherein said lead sheath is covered in an acid resistant material.

28. (new) The battery of claim 27, wherein said acid resistant material is epoxy resin.

29. (new) The battery of claim 23, wherein said member comprises a copper alloy covered in a lead sheath.

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30. (new) The battery of claim 29, wherein said copper alloy is brass.

31. (new) The battery of claim 23, wherein said member comprises aluminum covered in a lead sheath.

32. (new) The battery of claim 23, wherein said member comprises an aluminum alloy covered in a lead sheath.